GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2803
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
MIGRATION OF SIBERIAN BIRDS
Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the migration of Siberian birds to several States in the country has been reported and cases of smuggling of birds have also been detected in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) A number of Siberian birds migrate annually to different States in India for wintering. Though there is no specific report of smuggling of birds, but possibility of some isolated cases of bird smuggling cannot be ruled out.

(c) The steps taken by Government in this regard are as follows:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to endangered birds, including migratory birds against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii)The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.

(iii)The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

(iv)The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v)Crucial habitats of various species of birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Some of the important wetlands have also been notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.

(vi)Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/Union Territory Governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of National Parks & Sanctuaries and conservation of wetlands for providing better protection to wild animals.